

JUNCOS LANDFILL

PUERTO RICO

EPA ID# PRD980512362

EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 01
Juncos County
Juncos



Site Description

The 11-acre Juncos Landfill is a closed municipal landfill at which thermometers containing mercury have been dumped. Small leachate seeps and soil erosion were evident during the site inspections conducted by the EPA. Of greatest concern are houses adjacent to the landfill. The community is served from a public water supply. Limited barriers exist to prevent local residents or animals from entering the site. There are approximately 10,000 people living within a 3-mile radius of the site. Several small creeks are located near the landfill.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/01/82

Final Date: 09/01/83

Threats and Contaminants



The groundwater and soil are contaminated with heavy metals and chloroform. Touching or accidentally ingesting the contaminated soil could lead to potential health hazards. Pollutants may seep from the landfill into the groundwater. Ingestion of contaminated groundwater may pose a health hazard.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in three stages: immediate actions and two long-term remedial phases focusing on a cleanup of the landfill and contaminated groundwater.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: The immediate actions were limited to the control Site access and had greatly reduced the potential for exposure to hazardous materials at the Juncos Landfill Site while cleanup activities are taking place. In November 1990, the EPA separated the cleanup of the Site into two (2) phases or Operable Units (OU). The first OU would focus on the identification and abatement of the source of Site contamination at the Landfill property. The second OU, would assess the nature and extent, if any, of migration of contaminants from the Landfill property into groundwater. In 1984, the parties potentially responsible for the contamination posted signs and installed a partial fence around the site; they also covered the landfill and the discarded mercury-containing thermometers with topsoil.

Landfill: The potentially responsible parties began a study in 1984 to evaluate the nature and extent of the contamination associated with the landfill wastes. The work was completed in 1991. On September 24, 1991, the EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the first OU. The remedial alternative selected for OU-1 was closure the landfill by construction of a single barrier cap with a geomembrane liner, the installation of a security fence around the perimeter of the landfill and the place of institutional controls on the landfill property in an attempt to preclude future development to ensure the integrity of the cap.

Groundwater Contamination: The Remedial Investigation conducted to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination at the site was completed on March 19, 1992. A Feasibility Study to evaluate various clean up alternatives for the groundwater was approved by EPA in June 1993. On October 5, 1993, the EPA issued a ROD for the second OU. The remedial alternative selected for OU-2 was no action for the groundwater, the promotion of the natural attenuation, to place institutional controls and development groundwater monitoring.

Site Facts: A Consent Order was signed with Becton Dickinson, in which the company was responsible for immediate corrective actions at the landfill in 1984. An Administrative Order also was issued by the EPA in 1984 to Becton Dickinson to study the nature and extent of contamination at the site.

A Unilateral Administrative Order for OU1 was issued by the EPA on September 30, 1992 to four industries and three present and past owners for implementation of the first operable unit ROD. The ROD selected remedy includes the Temporary Relocation of 21 families living in homes located along the immediate north face of the Landfill, during the construction phase of this remedy. On February 23, 1999, EPA signed ESD to change relocation from **temporary to permanent**. The permanent relocation of the affected Residents living on the North face of the landfill must comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 which provides for the fair and equitable treatment of persons whose property will be acquired or who will be displaced because of projects required by a Federal Agency. On June 14, 1999, EPA signed Amendment to Unilateral Administrative Order to implement the ESD. The Amendment to Unilateral Administrative Order was effective on July 19, 1999.

The PRP's represented by the Commonwealth of PR refused to implement the permanent relocation of the affected Residents in comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. On August 28, 2000, EPA & the Commonwealth of PR (the Respondents) signed the 122h agreement for an EPA relocation-cost estimate (\$1,998,392.05). Subsequent to this ESD and before signed the 122h agreement with EPA a total of ten parcel (291B on Calle Naranjo and parcels 291, 294, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 308 and 311 on Calle Acasia) were acquired by the Puerto Rico Department of Rural Housing and the residents of these parcels moved to other residences.

EPA had initiated the implementation of the planning and real estate acquisition and relocation activities related to 14 properties at the Juncos Landfill Superfund Site in Juncos, Puerto Rico and to evaluate and pay relocation benefits to parties who already moved from 10 other properties adjacent to the Site.

A Unilateral Administrative Order for OU2 was issued by the EPA on October 5, 1993 to the responsible parties for implementation of the second operable unit ROD. A Project Operations Plan was approved by EPA on June 17, 1996. The Remedial Action is 100% completed. The PRP's represented by the Commonwealth of PR remain in a noncompliance with the OU2 Order. EPA issued two separate Notices of Noncompliance on September 24, 1996 and on April 20, 1998, to all of the Respondents, requiring Respondents to take immediate actions to comply with the terms of the OU2 Order, including the immediate initiation of the sampling, analysis, monitoring and construction activities. On October 19, 1998, Respondents recommenced work on OU2 and subsequently initiated the first round of sampling as part of the quarterly sampling required pursuant to the OU2 Order. However, the results of this initial groundwater sampling were not submitted to EPA until May 2000, and no further sampling has been conducted since that first round of sampling, despite the fact that the OU2 ROD and the OU2 Order require that such sampling and analysis be conducted quarterly. PRP's is in compliance with the groundwater sampling monitoring for OU-2.

The EPA is working in a CERCLA Unilateral Administrative Order for the implementation of the ROD's RD, UO-1 and ROD's RA, UO-2. RD/RA Work is being conducted pursuant to CERCLA Unilateral Administrative Orders. The immediate actions described above have limited the access to the site and have greatly reduced the potential for exposure to hazardous materials at the Juncos Landfill site while further studies and cleanup activities are taking place.

Environmental Progress

EPA & COE had initiated the official communication to local residents offering specific information on relocation, which includes an offer to sell and an option contract to the 14 residents adjacent to the landfill. From a total of 24 families target for relocation, only 8 remains to be relocated at this time. The relocation is expected to be completed by Nov. 2002.

In May 2001, EPA approved the Remedial Design. The approval of the Remedial Action WP is pending. Remedial Action for closure of the landfill as described in the ROD is schedule to start by January 2003.

PRP's is in compliance with the groundwater sampling monitoring for OU-2.